(c) what is the decision of the Government in this case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The Finance Minister, in his speech while presenting the budget for 1998-99, had stated that the Government will evolve a guarantee scheme to cover the outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards to major public sector undertakings. On the strength of such guarantees the concerned PSUs will be able to raise resources either by securitising these dues or directly entering the market for raising resources.

(b) and (c) Meetings were held between Ministries of Finance, Power and Coal and others to evolve a scheme of securitisation of outstanding dues owed by State Electricity Boards to the Central Public Sector Undertakings in coal and power sectors. However, several important issues need to be resolved. Inter-ministrial discussions are going on to resolve these issues in order to finalize this scheme.

Private Sector participation in Coal mining

2329. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited private sector participation in the coal mining sector;

(b) if so, which private sector companies are keen to participate in coal mining;

(c) the coal mines identified for lease to private sector in Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the details of Governments programme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (d) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 was amended in 1976 and 1993. The companies engaged in the iron and steel production, power generation and such other end-uses as notified by the Central Government from time to time are allowed to do coal mining for capitive consumption. Under the powers conferred by the 1993 amendment, a Gazette Notification was issued on 15.3.96 to allow production of cement as an end-use for captive coal mining. The above amendments in the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 as well as the Gazette Notification of 15.3.96, apply both to the public sector and private sector and therefore identification of the coal blocks/sub-blocks for captive mining has not been done for private sector alone. So far, 20 coal blocks/ sub-blocks have been allotted to private sector companies for captive consumption in power generation and iron and steel production.

Keeping in view the projections made by the Committee on integrated Coal Policy about the gap between demand and production of coal in the IX and X Plan periods, a decision has been taken by the Government on 17.2.99, to further amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, in order to allow the Indian companies in the public and private sector to mine coal without the existing restriction of captive consumption. However, the Bill for amendment to the Act is yet to be introduced in the Parliament. Non-captive coal mining by the Indian companies, other than Coal India Limited, Singareni Collieries Company Limited and other Mineral Development Corporations/coal companies of the State Governments, is not possible unless the Bill for amendment to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 receives legislative approval in the Parliament. It is, therefore, premature to formulate any Government programme for allocation of coal blocks to Indian companies in public and private sector for non-captive coal mining.

Vacancy for the post of Junior Overman in ECL

2330. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ECL had notified the vacancy of Junior Overman, vide its letter No. ECL/CMD/C-6B(R)/95/86 dated 8th December, 1995, addressed to employment officer, Barakar, District Burdwan, West Bengal; and